FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 223 *17 November 1978*

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PNC Chairman Makes Statement on Jordanian-Palestinian Dialog [Amman AR-RA'Y 17 Nov] A 1

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

AS-SIYASAH Reports Gulf Circles' 'Surprise' at Omani Buildup [15 Nov] C 1
Saudi Paper Cited on Difficulties in Mideast Peace Talks C 1

SAUDI ARABIA

Defense Minister Assures French of Defense Cooperation [London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 15 Nov] C 2

YEMEN--PDRY

150 U.S. Intelligence Experts Reportedly Now in YAR C 3
Red Crescent Society Receives Soviet Red Cross Gift C 3

YEMEN--YAR

AFP: Coup Leader Reports on Fighting in North Yemen C 4

EGYPT

MENA: Carter-Mubarak Meeting 'Extremely Positive' D 1
Al-Baz: Peace Agreement Might Be Ready in 10 Days D 1
Defense Minister Comments on Washington Talks D 1
As-Sadat Says Ghali Report Contains New Points D 2
As-Sadat Interviewed by Italian Radio D 3
Prime Minister Khalil Speaks at Dinner for Ulanfu D 5
Vice Chairman Ulanfu Speaks at 15 Nov Cairo Banquet [cross-reference] D 6
U.S. HEW Head Arrives for 5-Day Visit D 6

IRAQ

Baghdad Mourns Palestinian Rejectionist Official E 1
President Attends Graduation of Military Class E 1

JORDAN

Amman Radio Comments on Question of Linkage F 1
Iraqi Foreign Minister Concludes Visit to Jordan F 2

LEBANON

Prime Minister on Executive Program, Defense Bill G 1
Chamber Speaker Statement on Defense Bill Session G 2
Foreign Minister Denies Sarkis Invited To Visit U.S. G 2
Missile Radar Network Installed in Ta'nayil Plain G 3
Sniping Continues in Beirut; Military Action in North G 3
16-17 Nov Incidents G 3

SYRIA

TISHRIN Sees U.S. Mideast Policy Nearing Impasse H 1
Information Minister Speaks to Iraqi Journalists H 1
Iraqi Labor Delegation in Damascus To Attend Conference H 2

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

FLN Paper: Morocco Planning Aggression Against Neighbors I 1

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi: Attack on Libya Planned for October Postponed I 1
Jallud, Italian Prime Minister Discuss Relations I 2
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives FROLINAT Leader, Delegation I 3

MOROCCO

MAP Reports King Hassan's Washington Press Conference I 3
AL-MAGHREB Comment I 3

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO Urges U.S. Not To Supply Arms to King Hassan I 4
Sudanese-POLISARIO Talks Held in Khartoum I 4
Tribunal for Western Sahara To Meet 30 November I 4
POLISARIO: Mauritania Must Act If Cease-Fire To Last I 5
[Paris LE MONDE 14 Nov]

ISRAEL

Government Circles Express Optimism Over Peace Talks N 1
Dayan Reports to Knesset Committee on Negotiations N 1
Weizman Says Egyptian Proposal No Obstacle to Peace N 1
Remarks on Arrival in Israel N 2
Ben-Elisar Comments on Peace Talks, U.S. Role N 2
Alinement Submitting No-Confidence Proposal on Economics N 3
SHAY Joins Proposal N 3
Cabinet Ministers Claim Sharon Wants To Resign N 3
Linkage Implications Prevent Cabinet Approval of Treaty N 4
[POST 17 Nov]
U.S. Likely To React Favorably to Ehrlich Aid Request N 7
Economic Agreement Reached Between U.S., Israel N 7
Israeli Sources Reaffirm Ties With Lebanese Christians N 7
Poll Indicates Rise in Popularity of Begin, Dayan [HA'AREZ 16 Nov] N 7
Poll on Israeli Attitudes on Palestinian Issue [HA'AREZ 14 Nov] N 8

IRAN

Khomeyni Appeals to Oil Workers To Continue Strike R 1
Tehran Reports Behrgan Oilfield Workers End Strike R 1
Shah Receives Eight New Cabinet Members R 1
Tehran Reports Shah's Message on Army Day R 2
Tehran Prosecutor Publishes Information on Misappropriation R 2
Briefs: Departing Algerian Envoy R 2

SOUTH ASIA

BANGLADESH

PRC's Li Chiang Feted at Dacca Reception S 1

INDIA

Vajpayee Refutes Gandhi Statement on Soviet Treaty S 1
Joint Communique Issued on Visit of Indonesia's Mochtar S 1
AFP: India's Tibetan Refugees Demand Return Visit S 4
Desai Defends Janata Party Leadership in Government S 4

PAKISTAN

Prosecution Concludes Arguments in Bhutto Case S 5
PAEC Official Speaks on Progress of Nuclear Energy Program S 6

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Initiates Moves to Insure Oil Supply S 6
Finance Minister Presents Budget to Parliament S 6

PNC CHAIRMAN MAKES STATEMENT ON JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN DIALOG

JN170838Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Nov 78 pp 1, 12 JN

[AR-RA'Y exclusive]

[Text] Damascus--In an exclusive statement to AR-RA'Y's correspondent in Damascus, Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council [PNC], praised the Jordanian-Palestinian meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, in Baghdad on the periphery of the ninth Arab summit conference.

Al-Fahum said that after the ruler of Egypt visited occupied Jerusalem and after he signed the Camp David accords, and in light of what is currently taking place at Blair House, all facts affirm that the president of the Egyptian regime is heading toward the unilateral solution that aims at liquidating the cause of Palestine and that ignores the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Al-Fahum added that all these matters make it necessary to remove all the lateral differences among the Arab countries so that they will unite to confront and foil the repercussions of Camp David and prevent the liquidation of the cause of Palestine, which is the cause of all the Arabs.

Al-Fahum said that during the ninth Arab summit conference in Baghdad, a meeting was held between His Majesty King Husayn and a Palestinian delegation under PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. His majesty the king expressed great interest in the need to remove any differences between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the PLO. His majesty welcomed starting a positive dialog in order to improve relations between Jordan and the PLO--on the basis of the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences held in Algiers, Rabat and Baghdad--so as to provide a better atmosphere to confront plots, particularly the so-called self-rule in the West Bank.

Al-Fahum further added: The meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat was extremely positive. Therefore, it has been decided to start a fraternal dialog between the officials in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the PLO with the aim of strengthening and bolstering the Arab ranks and supporting steadfastness so as to prevent capitulation and repair the damages resulting from the Egyptian regime's signing on the Camp David accords and its continued march toward a separate reconciliation [sulh].

The Jordanian-Palestinian dialog is to protect the Palestinian cause and all the Arab countries, particularly the confrontation states headed by Syria and Jordan, Al-Fahum said. He then added: We hope that this dialog will begin next week when His Majesty King Husayn returns from his tour of some European states. We are confident that the PLO will display every positive spirit to render this dialog successful.

KUWAIT

AS-SIYASAH REPORTS GULF CIRCLES' 'SURPRISE' AT OMANI BUILDUP

LD161641Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 15 Nov 78 p 1 LD

[Text] The Gulf affairs editor writes: Gulf political circles have been astonished by recent reports that there is an unusual Omani military concentration along the UAE borders in Al-'Ayn area. The Gulf circles were even more astonished by the fact that reports of these concentrations come at a time when Arab solidarity in general and Gulf solidarity in particular was supposed to have reached a high degree of responsibility.

Reports have been received to the effect that some 300 Omani vehicles have been concentrated at the approaches to Al-'Ayn town. This has caused surprise among Gulf political circles, particularly since there is no political justification for this offensive concentration which, because of its size and timing, has seemed provocative and aroused concern in the Gulf.

Despite the fact that some of the Gulf circles believe that this military concentration is an attempt to hinder the forthcoming Gulf summit meeting, certain circles do not rule out the possibility that this military movement has an international implication which might have an impact on the whole area.

AS-SIYASAH has learned from several Gulf sources that efforts are being made to mediate, to find out the real reason behind such unjustified moves and to avoid the serious repercussions that might ensue.

SAUDI PAPER CITED ON DIFFICULTIES IN MIDEAST PEACE TALKS

LD161305Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Nov 78 LD

[Text] The Saudi paper AR-RIYAD said today that reports that the so-called peace talks in Washington between Egypt and Israel have run into difficulties are nothing but a political maneuver and an open Zionist propaganda game, designed to convey the illusion of Israeli intransigence in the face of demands for more concessions by the other side. [sentence as heard]

In a commentary also carried by Riyadh radio, the paper said that this political maneuver is a scheme contrived for the current Washington negotiations, in just the same way as it had been laid down before for the Camp David negotiations and for the Leeds Castle conference. As for the propaganda game, the paper said, it is only a plan designed to portray Israel as the wronged party in the peace issue, which would be compensated with more concessions and rights so that it may entrench its illegitimate existence and its tyrannical occupation of the Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem.

AR-RIYAD said Israel does not want more than what the Camp David agreements had decided to give it: recognition of its existence and legitimacy for its occupation and usurpation of the Arab territories. All Israel seeks now, the paper added, is to consolidate this generous donation into a tangible reality.

The paper added: It is sufficient for Israel that the Camp David agreements have neutralized one of the confrontation fronts, which had canceled all moves toward war. Spreading rumors about the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations having run into snags, or about the intransigence of the Israeli position to a specified demand by Egypt comes within the context of the propaganda game laid down at Camp David, and designed by the enemy with a view to making international public opinion believe that it had made concessions, and that it had both right and legitimacy.

The Saudi paper described the rumors about the Washington talks as propaganda for peace, but an Israeli-style peace. The paper stressed that the point at issue was neither a Camp David, nor a Blair House, issue. Nor is it a pseudo, impotent peace. The question is one of a people driven out of their land and persecuted inside it; and one of usurped Arab lands and holy sacred places in which Israelis indulging in a devastation spree without any regard to their sanctity.

SAUDI ARABIA

DEFENSE MINISTER ASSURES FRENCH OF DEFENSE COOPERATION

LD161403Y London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Nov 78 p 1 LD

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT special dispatch: "Amir Sultan Assures Giscard of Continued Military Cooperation Between the Two Countries"]

[Excerpts] Paris--ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from well-informed French sources that Saudi Minister of Defense and Aviation Amir Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has affirmed to French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing that military cooperation between the two countries will continue regardless of the fate of the Arab Organization for Military Industries. The sources said that last night's meeting between Amir Sultan and the French president at the Elysee Palace dealt mainly with various aspects of the bilateral relations between the two countries and the Middle East situation. Amir Sultan clarified to the French president his country's attitude toward the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations and said that Saudi Arabia is very anxious to see that Egypt does not sign a separate peace treaty with Israel and that it would like any Egyptian-Israeli agreement to include a clear Israeli commitment regarding the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Palestinians.

Amir Sultan also stressed the Kingdom's desire for the unity of Arab ranks and said that the Baghdad summit's principal aim was to preserve Arab unity.

Observers have noted silence regarding the fate of the Arab Organization for Military Industries, which includes Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the UAE and Qatar and whose chairman is Amir Sultan. On leaving the Elysee, Amir Sultan said that his meeting with Giscard d'Estaing did not deal with the fate of the Arab Organization for Military Industries.

However, despite this silence ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from diplomatic sources in Paris that there is concern at various French levels over the fate of the Arab organization and the future of military cooperation between France and the organization in general and France and Egypt in particular. This concern increased following President Anwar as-Sadat's decision last month to dismiss Ashraf Marwan as head of the Arab Organization. The decision has caused dismay to certain Arab quarters concerned with the fate of the organization, which saw in it a clear Egyptian attempt to suspend the organization's activities.

The Arab Organization for Military Industries was scheduled to hold a meeting 28 October in order to choose a successor to Ashraf Marwan but the meeting was postponed. Well-informed Arab sources here say that there is an inclination to move the organization's headquarters from Egypt if Egypt signs a separate peace treaty with Israel.

The French concern has prompted French businessmen, especially those concerned with the aircraft industry, to seriously consider sending a delegation to Cairo in order to meet with President Anwar as-Sadat and discuss the matter with him. A delegation is scheduled to leave for Cairo very soon and is expected to include representatives from French companies that have relations with Egypt, including Thompson and Matra.

YEMEN--PDRY

150 U.S. INTELLIGENCE EXPERTS REPORTEDLY NOW IN YAR

LD161530Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Nov 78 LD/EA

[Text] Todays edition of the newspaper 14 OCTOBER reports that U.S. intelligence teams have begun spying and sabotage activities in the northern part of the homeland in the past 2 weeks. The paper says that these activities have now reached their climax, with the United States deciding to supply the rulers of the agent San'a' regime with a number of experts and advisers on internal security affairs and with fully equipped teams from the U.S. intelligence service.

The paper says 150 U.S. experts have arrived in groups over the past month. They have been assigned to various towns and areas in the northern part of the homeland.

This influx of foreign forces comes as a desperate bid to defuse the extensive popular uprising exploding in various areas in the north under the leadership of the Democratic National Front.

RED CRESCENT SOCIETY RECEIVES SOVIET RED CROSS GIFT

LD161450Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Nov 78 LD/EA

[Excerpt] Brother 'Abdallah Ahmad Bukayr, member of the Central Committee, minister of public health and chairman of the Red Crescent Society of Democratic Yemen, received in his office this morning comrade Vladimir Kaboshkin, Soviet Ambassador in Aden, who presented him with some medical equipment donated by the Soviet Red Cross to the Yemeni Red Crescent Society.

Comrade Bukayr delivered a speech in which he paid tribute to the moral and material help the CPSU was affording the PDRY. [words indistinct] He also expressed appreciation for the timely help given by the Soviet Red Cross Society. He said that we used it to help the separated families from the northern part of the homeland. The brother minister for health spoke about imperialist reaction, the moves against our revolution and their conspiracies, and reaffirmed that our party is capable of repulsing these conspiracies.

Comrade Kaboshkin delivered a speech describing the development of relations between the two friendly countries, and strongly emphasized the readiness of the Soviet people to extend assistance to the Democratic Yemen in any field and at any time. He expressed his hope that relations (?between) the two countries will further develop. He said that relations between the Yemeni Red Crescent Society and the Soviet Red Cross Society will develop and (?deepen).

Comrade Kaboshkin then presented the Soviet Society's gift to Democratic Yemen.

YEMEN--YAR

AFP: COUP LEADER REPORTS ON FIGHTING IN NORTH YEMEN

TA170815Y Paris AFP in English 0802 GMT 17 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Beirut, Nov 17 (AFP)--Hard fighting is taking place in North Yemen between government forces and rebel troops that took part in the unsuccessful coup last Oct 15, a coup leader said in an interview published here today.

Major Mujahid al-Kahali told the Lebanese daily AN-NAHAR that Saudi Arabia Air Force planes were backing up government troops. Dozens of fighters have been killed in the combat, which is in the Seplan district, he said.

Maj al-Kahali was a member of the ruling Military Command Council during the presidency of Lieutenant-Colonel Ibrahim al-Hamdi, who was assassinated on Oct 11 last year.

Maj al-Kahali said his June 13 movement has merged with the National Front (NF) consisting of leftist opposition parties.

He said the coup last month failed because the current president, Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, was on a secret trip to confer with Saudi leaders.

An attempt to assassinate him after he returned from Saudi Arabia also failed, the major revealed.

MENA: CARTER-MUBARAK MEETING 'EXTREMELY POSITIVE'

NC162328Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2309 GMT 16 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Washington, 16 November--The MENA correspondent in Washington has learned from highly placed sources that the meeting between U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Vice President Husni Mubarak was "very useful and extremely positive."

The correspondent has also learned that President Carter, the other members of the U.S. side, and Vice President Mubarak, who was accompanied by Egyptian Ambassador Dr Ashraf Ghurbal, all came out of the meeting satisfied with its results.

The peace negotiations are expected to receive a big boost toward overcoming the present differences over linking the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty to a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem. This will be a result of today's meeting between Husni Mubarak and the U.S. officials.

Officials in Washington expect that extensive negotiations will be held next week after Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman return from Israel, after attending the Israeli Cabinet meeting to discuss the latest developments in the negotiations in the light of the U.S. proposals submitted by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance last Sunday to Egypt and Israel, and following Egypt's constructive views on ironing out the difficulties facing the talks at present.

AL-BAZ: PEACE AGREEMENT MIGHT BE READY IN 10 DAYS

NC171120Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Vice President Husni Mubarak will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in Washington over a working luncheon today. They will discuss the current developments in the peace negotiations.

Yesterday Husni Mubarak conveyed a message to U.S. President Carter from President as-Sadat. They discussed the connection between the negotiations on Gaza and the West Bank with the Camp David agreement and the peace treaty which is being negotiated between Egypt and Israel. They also discussed the outstanding issues in the current negotiations and the recent U.S. proposals on solving them.

Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and member of the Egyptian delegation to the Washington negotiations, has stated that the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel could be ready for signing within 10 days if the two sides can reach solutions to their differences on the Palestinian question. Dr Usamah al-Baz added: In the next few days, the senior negotiators of the two sides will reconsider, contemplate and debate matters. It might take 10 days to complete the negotiations.

DEFENSE MINISTER COMMENTS ON WASHINGTON TALKS

NC171045Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 November--Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the defense minister and leader of the Egyptian delegation to the Washington discussions, has stated that Egypt has not submitted any new proposals and that the allegation that Egypt has hardened its line because of the Baghdad summit conference is completely baseless. He added that upon clear instructions from President as-Sadat, since the beginning of the discussions the Egyptian delegation has concentrated on the importance of linkage between the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and progress in the West Bank and Gaza.

In statements published by AL-AHRAM today, Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali says hat the Egyptian delegation has conveyed to U.S. President Jimmy Carter its views and proposals on this point during the six meetings which President Carter has held with the Egyptian delegation since the beginning of the discussions. He adds that these proposals have been conveyed in full to the Israeli side. Egypt has proposed since the beginning that the actual implementation steps begin with the establishment of autonomous rule in Gaza on the basis that Egypt shoulders a legal and political responsibility toward the sector, and also on the basis that what will be agreed upon regarding Gaza will apply in full on the West Bank.

In his statement, Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali says: The interpretation of the Egyptian draft proposal as a retreat by Egypt on the question of the West Bank is absolutely incorrect. Egypt had called on King Husayn of Jordan to shoulder his responsibilities toward the West Bank and Gaza. Egypt said that it will assume its responsibility toward the Gaza sector and that it is also prepared to assume responsibility toward the West Bank if Jordan fails to do so.

The defense minister explains that the interpretation of the Egyptian stance as a retreat from the U.S. position which provides for the establishment of autonomous rule in the West Bank and Gaza sector after 1 year of signing the agreement is also untrue. He says: The Israelis refused the U.S. proposal at the meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in New York. The truth is that Egypt has proposed a specific timetable for starting the discussions on the West Bank and Gaza 1 month after the agreement is signed, that the elections take place within 6 months allowing for the establishment of an autonomous rule in Gaza first and in the West Bank in the following 6 months.

AS-SADAT SAYS GHALI REPORT CONTAINS NEW POINTS

NC161905Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 16 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 November--President Anwar as-Sadat has expressed full appreciation for Chinese Chairman Hua Kuo-feng and for the stand adopted by the Chinese people toward Egypt, particularly at the time the Soviet Union imposed a ban on arms exports to Egypt.

President as-Sadat said he expressed these feelings during his meeting today with Ulanfu, vice chairman of the Chinese National People's Assembly, who is currently visiting Egypt.

President as-Sadat also announced that his talks today with Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti were very important because they came at a time which is crucial to the Arab cause.

President as-Sadat made these remarks following his 1-hour meeting with Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti.

President as-Sadat also said that Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil handed him a report today from Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Butrus Ghali. He added that this report contains entirely new points and he will discuss this report with the prime minister tomorrow.

President as-Sadat began his statements to reporters by answering a question on the outcome of his talks with Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti. He said: I explained to the Italian prime minister the latest developments in the situation, particularly since the U.S. President's telephone conversation with me 2 or 3 days ago and the departure of the vice president for Washington.

President as-Sadat was then asked about the outcome of his talks with Ulanfu, vice chairman of the Chinese National People's Assembly, which took place in Ismailia today. He said: My meeting with the vice chairman of the Chinese National People's Assembly was very important. President as-Sadat said that the greater part of the talks was held with Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil. Therefore, we concentrated on one or two important points. The time has not come to disclose these points.

President as-Sadat added: I take this opportunity to salute the Chinese people and Chairman Hua Kuo-feng for standing with us against the Soviet arms embargo. We shall never forget their stand.

President as-Sadat said: I have informed Ulanfu that I wish Mao were still alive so that I could go to him and thank him. It was Mao who acquainted us with Hua Kuo-feng. The last person Mao saw before his death was Husni Mubarak. Mao was behind the introduction of Hua Kuo-feng and Husni Mubarak. I thanked them, of course. However, there are two basic points, but the time for discussing them has not yet come.

President as-Sadat said: I have invited Hua Kuo-feng to visit Egypt. Meanwhile, Ulanfu has again invited me to visit China.

The president said that he would like to visit China but such a visit depends on the circumstances and his engagements.

Asked about the report which Dr Butrus Ghali presented to him, President as-Sadat said: Dr Butrus Ghali has just sent me an urgent report with Dr Mustafa Khalil. I will discuss this report with the prime minister tomorrow, because it contains completely new points which I want to discuss with him and the prime minister.

Asked if these points were raised by the U.S. side or the Israeli side, the president said: Just points. The president said: I prefer not to add anything more now because secrecy has proved to be completely useful, as was the case during the Camp David conference.

Asked if there is anything new regarding Gaza, the president said: I have nothing new to add now. In 1 or 2 days when I receive the first report from the vice president, I will probably be able to tell you something.

Asked: Do you still have the same confidence and reassurance? He replied, undoubtedly, undoubtedly, undoubtedly. I mean there is nothing wrong. God willing, the agreement will undoubtedly be achieved sooner or later. There is no turning back. At the Suez Canal University yesterday, I said that we have actually solved 90 percent of one of the most complex problems the world has ever encountered. The history of this problem does not date back only 30 years, but more than 2,000 years. We have solved 90 percent of it. God willing, we will solve the remaining 10 percent.

Asked if he will go to Oslo to receive the Nobel Prize, his excellency said: So far, yes.

AS-SADAT INTERVIEWED BY ITALIAN RADIO

NC162026Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1925 GMT 16 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 November--President Anwar as-Sadat told a correspondent from Italian radio today that Italian Prime Minister Guilio Andreotti's visit to Egypt comes at a crucial time as far as the Middle East conflict is concerned.

President as-Sadat also said that he and the Italian prime minister agree in that they are both optimistic. He added: I asked the Italian prime minister to convey to the Italian president our full appreciation and gratitude for Italy's attitude, especially after the 1967 defeat when all Europe boycotted us and only Italy stood by us.

President as-Sadat also said: I explained to the Italian prime minister the entire situation, including the points of agreement and the points of disagreement between us and Israel.

He added: As you know, I am optimistic by nature and I also believe that there is no problem that cannot be solved.

President as-Sadat asserted that through the Camp David agreements we have accomplished 90 percent of what is needed to settle the Middle East problem.

The president added: What happened in Baghdad recently has happened before, through the rejectionist camp, after the first disengagement and the second disengagement agreements and after my initiative last year and after Camp David. What is astonishing is that after the Baghdad conference they said that they are after a peaceful settlement. So, what is the disagreement about?

The following is the text of President as-Sadat's statement to Italian radio:

I am really very happy to meet my friend Andreotti, prime minister of Italy, who has arrived here actually at a turning point in the history of the conflict here. I was very happy to take this opportunity to brief him on the latest developments in the past 2 days since President Carter contacted me by telephone and we had a lengthy conversation. I briefed the prime minister on that conversation and on my decision to send Vice President Husni Bukarak to Washington, and also on the points of agreement and of disagreement.

I am not in a position to divulge anything now but I believe that we concluded that we are both optimistic about the future. I also took this opportunity to ask him to convey to the Italian president, his colleagues and the Italian people, our gratitude for their understanding and support. We will never forget Italy's attitude after our defeat in 1967 when the rest of Europe boycotted us.

Question: Mr President, may I ask you about your exact position as far as Camp David is concerned?

Answer: At Camp David we signed two documents. The first dealt with a comprehensive settlement, and the other with an Egyptian-Israeli treaty. In Washington, we accomplished 90 percent of the work needed under the two documents on a comprehensive settlement and a settlement between Egypt and Israel. That leaves only 10 percent. This is the real situation now.

Question: What is the situation now regarding the so-called rejection front?

Answer: There is nothing at all. They are taking the same attitude. You will perhaps recall that the same thing happened after the first disengagement and the second disengagement and at the time of my initiative last year and at the time of Camp David. There is, however, an important point which I would like you to know. In Baghdad, despite the signs of emotion, the main parties there, who were basically Syria, the Palestinians and Iraq, tried to draw the Arab world toward them. They said that they support peaceful settlement.

So, what is the disagreement about if what they want is a peaceful settlement? I do not know. Perhaps someone can tell me. I really do not understand.

Answering another question, President as-Sadat said: I am optimistic by nature. I am full of optimism. We said during my discussions with the Italian prime minister today that there is no problem that we cannot solve.

Question: Mr President, what kind of support do you expect from Italy and the EEC?

Answer: I spoke to the prime minister today in detail. Let me sum it up in a few words. We want Italy's voice to be with us at this decisive moment. As I told you, it has been pleasant to meet with the Italian prime minister here in Egypt at this crucial moment, and to give him the full picture. We want Italy's voice.

Question: What was the Italian prime minister's reply?

Answer: 100 percent support.

PRIME MINISTER KHALIL SPEAKS AT DINNER FOR ULANFU

NC160855Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2207 GMT 15 Nov 78 NC

[Text of speech by Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil on behalf of Vice President Husni Mubarak at dinner banquet given in honor of Ulanfu, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress]

[Text] Cairo, 15 November--It pleases me to extend to you a cordial welcome and hearty greetings from the Egyptian people, who harbor for the great Chinese people and their noble revolutionary leadership profound feelings of esteem, appreciation and love.

Your (?glorious) people, who have behind them a centuries-old civilization, have given the most splendid example in the struggle against imperialism, domination and exploitation and have stood before the peoples of [word indistinct] world as an honorable example of human struggle, aware of their aims, goals and the lessons of history and determined to change the international state of affairs, thus heralding a better future for human society.

It is a matter of pride to us that friendly People's China, at this momentous turn, is being led by a unique personality, who is capable of pushing China forward to further progress and development in all fields, both at home and abroad, and capable of continuing the great long march that your people started when they revolted against feudalism, exploitation and foreign control. It is the people of your country who have laid a new foundation for dealing with nations, not according to their material strength and military power, but according to their agreement with them in objectives and principles and their participation with them in the glorious human struggle.

I had the opportunity to visit your magnificent country and familiarize myself with aspects of the progress achieved by China's revolutionary experiment in all fields for the benefit of the struggling masses that are the genuine beneficiaries of every revolutionary change. They are valiantly defending both their own right and that of the Third World nations to live an honorable life, where the big cannot impose their will upon the small, and where relations are not to be based on selfishness, coercion and oppression, but on principles and belief in the inevitability of the triumph of the nations' will, however big the challenges and obstacles may be.

I also had the honor of getting acquainted with Chairman Hua Kuo-feng and to closely sense his rare [words indistinct] and remarkable knowledge of all international affairs, his genuine feeling of participation in [words indistinct] sympathy with all the peace-loving peoples, his solidarity in thought and action with the liberation movement in all parts of the world, and his firm stand by right, justice and peace.

One of the splendid achievements of the Chinese people and their wise leadership was reconciliation between preservation of the national heritage, belief in the unity of human struggle, the need to achieve further scientific and technological progress, and combination between [words indistinct] and modern life--all this without affecting the principles [words indistinct] and noble values stemming from the conscience of society.

Friends, cooperation between our peoples is a marvelous example of genuine solidarity based on principles and the belief in human fraternity, besides the struggle of the Egyptian people, whether to secure their political and economic independence or to strengthen their domestic construction and to complete social and economic transformations in favor of the masses. We note with the greatest appreciation that you have never attempted to exercise any pressure on us, or to ask us for a price, but you have been generous, upright and unprejudiced, considering the essence of our relationship, and not the profit and loss account.

We appreciate your support for us in our struggle for the liberation of the occupied Arab territory and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the fraternal Palestinian people. We also appreciate your revolutionary will for the establishment of peace in the area and your support for the steps which we are making on the path of freedom.

We shall continue together to establish a lofty edifice for the solidarity of peoples and [word indistinct] one message. We shall continue our revolutionary march for the sake of a happier future for humanity. The will of the struggling peoples will always triumph.

May I ask you to stand up and extend greetings to Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, to dear guest Comrade Ulanful, and to the great people of China, as well as the fraternal and friendly relations between the two peoples and the two countries.

VICE CHAIRMAN ULANFU SPEAKS AT 15 NOV CAIRO BANQUET

For a MENA text of PRC Vice Chairman Ulanfu's speech at the 15 November banquet in his honor in Cairo, see the International Affairs section of the 16 November People's Republic of China DAILY REPORT.

U.S. HEW HEAD ARRIVES FOR 5-DAY VISIT

NC161552Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1526 GMT 16 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 November--U.S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Joseph Califano arrived in Cairo today on a 5-day visit at the invitation of Egyptian Health Minister Dr Mamduh Jabr, who was at the airport to welcome him. Also at the airport was Minister of Insurance and Social Affairs Dr Amal 'Uthman.

During his stay the HEW secretary will visit the Faith and Hope Society Center, the Al-Matariyah Institute for the mentally retarded and the antischistosomiasis project. He will visit Luxor and Aswan tomorrow.

The U.S. secretary is expected to meet Saturday with Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil, Minister of Education, Culture and Scientific Research Dr Hasan Isma'il and the members of the universities supreme council.

BAGHDAD MOURNS PALESTINIAN REJECTIONIST OFFICIAL

JN161810Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 November--Baghdad masses this afternoon mourned martyr Kamal Ka'wash, alias Abu al-'Abd, member of the Palestine Command Branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, member of the Central Committee of the Arab Liberation Front, and military official in charge of the Palestinian rejectionist front.

The symbolic funeral procession was headed by Tariq 'Aziz, member of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Tahir Tawfiq, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; and several members of the Baghdad party branch.

The coffin of the departed was wrapped with the flag of the Palestinian revolution and carried by a car proceeded by a band and a group of the armed forces.

The director of the Palestine and Armed Struggle Bureau, several directors and members of the bureaus of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, several members of the Arab Liberation Front Command, and representatives of the liberation movements, the Palestinian political committee, and the Arab popular organizations and trade unions in Iraq participated in the funeral procession.

The mourners carried placards pledging to continue on the path of armed struggle to liberate Palestine and to foil the imperialist plots and the capitulationist solutions.

The departed was born in Mayrun town in occupied Palestine in 1933. He joined the ranks of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in 1954. He died in Beirut last Monday evening of a heart attack.

PRESIDENT ATTENDS GRADUATION OF MILITARY CLASS

JN161229Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 16 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 November--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr today attended the graduation ceremony of the second class at the War and National Defense colleges at Al-Bakr University for Higher Military Studies. The graduation ceremony was also attended by Dr Munif ar-Razzaz, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; a number of the members of the Regional Command of the Revolution Command Council; Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf, the vice president; a number of the ministers; the chief of staff of the armed forces, and many high-ranking officers and senior civilian officials.

The staff major general and president of the university delivered a speech in which he said that the graduation of this military class comes at a time when the masses of the Arab nation are celebrating the achievement of the signing of the National Charter for Joint Action between Iraq and Syria and the success of the Arab summit conference.

He stressed that the Arab nation is steadfast and ready to confront its enemies represented in imperialism and Zionism and the traitors in the Arab ranks.

The graduation ceremony proceeded with the granting of diplomas in graduate studies for national defense. The graduates of the war college were also granted diplomas in the graduate military studies.

Concluding the ceremony, President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr distributed the certificates to the graduates from the two colleges. He also gave gifts to the excellent students.

AMMAN RADIO COMMENTS ON QUESTION OF LINKAGE

JN152126Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Nov 78 JN

[Excerpts] The current dialog between Washington, Cairo and Tel Aviv on the question of linkage between the Sinai agreement and self-rule gives the impression that the good reassurances that accompanied the process of the Camp David negotiations were at the expense of the guarantees which were supposed to be mentioned in the texts of the agreements. This dialog affirms that what the Camp David negotiators left to good intentions was much more serious than what is contained in the provisions of the agreements. It is enough to say that the entire Palestinian cause--which is the basic cause of the Arab-Israeli dispute--was left to good promises and intentions. Whereas the small settlement of Yamit on the Sinai coast has been the subject of a great amount of discussion, procrastination and a clear emphasis on its being Egyptian, the cause of Jerusalem and the holy shrines as well as the future of the Palestinian territories, sovereignty and the rights of the Palestinians have been left to good promises and good Israeli intentions.

The question which is persistently raised even by those who categorically rejected the Camp David accords is: Why did Egypt not insist on the question of linkage at Camp David when the negotiations were underway? In reply to this question, a senior U.S. official simply said: Egypt did not raise this question at Camp David although the United States was waiting for such a demand and was ready to support it.

The dialog now taking place on the question of linkage between the Sinai agreement and self-rule for the Palestinians is not a dialog on linking the final agreement on the Sinai with the Palestinian cause as is reiterated by some information organs; it is a dialog on linking Egypt's unilateral agreement, which has been denounced by all Arabs except Egypt, with an agreement on a Palestinian self-rule plan that was rejected by the Palestinians--the directly-involved party--as well as by all the Arabs represented at the Baghdad summit conference.

The dialog is not on the question of the Sinai and its agreements or on the disregarded questions of the Palestinian cause as related to sovereignty, the future of Jerusalem and the crawling Israeli settlements. The dialog is on Egypt's insistence on finding a timetable by which Israel will be able to implement a self-rule proposal that was rejected by the Palestinian side under occupation and that cannot be achieved without Palestinian participation and agreement. The dialog currently underway between Tel Aviv and Cairo stresses Israel's strategic aim of isolating Egypt through a separate agreement which separates Egypt from its reality and its nation and gives a free hand to Israel in the occupied territories as well as in the entire Arab east.

The insistence on an Israeli promise to quickly implement the Palestinian self-rule in no way changes the fait accompli. Although in form this gives Egypt a justification to implement a unilateral solution under the umbrella of the comprehensive solution, it does not turn the process of authorizing the occupation or entrenching it into a comprehensive solution even though Cairo, Washington and Tel Aviv are describing it as a comprehensive solution. The difference between the Arabs and the Camp David accords is one of principles, whereas the difference between Tel Aviv and Cairo is now one of procedures--procedures that will eventually lead to allowing occupation to remain forever in a new form of hegemony as well as in the form of a civilian and military presence in the occupied territories.

Whether Israel slows down or speeds up its implementation of the self-rule plan, Egypt will pull out of the Arab arena and will no longer be a support for the legitimate Arab demands, which go beyond the Camp David accords and are included in the issues left by President as-Sadat to good intentions and promises.

The road to comprehensive peace passes through the Arab will and the entrenchment of the basic Arab rights, the foremost of which is making no concessions on the topic of sovereignty over the occupied territories and the return of Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty. The Camp David accords will not change the fact that these territories are constantly exposed to liquidation, annexation and the continuous Israeli settlement march.

IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER CONCLUDES VISIT TO JORDAN

JN160603Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Nov 78 p 1 JN

[Text] Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi and Mrs Hammadi left Amman for Baghdad yesterday following a private visit to Jordan during which they visited 'Aqaba, Petra and Jarash.

PRIME MINISTER ON EXECUTIVE PROGRAM, DEFENSE BILL

NC171305Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today spoke at length about the various current issues facing Lebanon and the proposed solutions that are being prepared. He asserted that at its base, the Lebanese problem is a political issue and it can be resolved only through a political solution.

The prime minister said: We are aware of the extent of the people's anxiety because of the delay in implementation of the executive program of the Bayt ad-Din conference resolutions, which has been approved by the cabinet, and because of the existing differences of views on some aspects of the army bill. Therefore, I must comment, though briefly, on this subject.

The implementation of the executive program hinges on a timetable. We have asked the military commands to prepare this timetable through coordination among themselves. When the military commands presented their initial draft, we discovered that, despite the efforts exerted in preparing it, implementation of the draft in its present form faces obstacles which may not be easy to overcome, except in a politically relaxed atmosphere. Such an atmosphere can be created only when a comprehensive political solution to the Lebanese issue is achieved within the framework of a formula for national detente.

The prime minister added: We have always said that the Lebanese issue, at its base, is a political one and that the security problem is only one aspect of it. Consequently, the situation, even the security aspect of it, cannot possibly be settled completely except through a comprehensive political solution.

However, in dealing with the security situation within the framework of the executive program of the Bayt ad-Din conference resolutions, we see that we can pursue a realistic course that will lead the country toward security relaxation and restore the citizens' hopes about their future and the future of their country, pending the achievement of a comprehensive political solution, without which security will not bring about firm reassurance and peace will not lead to permanent stability.

The prime minister added: Our eagerness to produce more realistic solutions--which consequently are more suited for implementation--has prompted us to ask the military command to reconsider some aspects of the draft, in light of the new instructions given to them regarding the basis, phases and means of implementation. I am confident that even the difference of views on the army bill would not have arisen or, at least, would not have assumed such dimensions, had the bill been presented in an atmosphere of general political relaxation or had it come within a formula for a comprehensive political solution.

However, I say that this difference of views must not be considered an insurmountable obstacle, because there is a safety valve: The Chamber of Deputies, in its capacity as the last recourse for legitimacy is responsible for legislation. If the government is unable to reach a common agreement on a solution, then the Chamber of Deputies can eventually resolve the issue, first in the committees and second in the chamber's General Assembly.

In fact, this is what prompted us, when we drew up the executive program of the Bayt ad-Din conference resolutions, to include a stipulation requesting the Chamber of Deputies to give priority to the defense bill in the hope that it would be issued at the appropriate time. Therefore, there is no reason for portraying the situation as if the country has reached an insurmountable impasse.

CHAMBER SPEAKER STATEMENT ON DEFENSE BILL SESSION

NC161824Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Nov 78 NC

[Excerpts] The joint meeting of the Parliamentary Defense and Administration Committees today was preceded by a preparatory meeting which Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad held with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Defense and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus. The preparatory meeting was attended by the chairman of the Parliamentary Defense Committee, Deputy Fu'ad Lahhud, chairman of the Parliamentary Administration Committee Deputy Nazim al-Qadiri and Deputies Munir Abu Fadil, Bahij Taqiy ad-Din and Nasri al-Ma'luf.

The discussions during the meeting dealt with the provisions of the new defense bill.

After the meeting, Chamber Speaker al-As'ad made the following statement:

We have not reached a final solution to the dispute over some of the provisions of the defense bill. However, the meeting, the exchange of views and the discussions in general were useful and positive. This will pave the way for settling the issue during the next session since all the conferees realize that continued differences of opinion would mean freezing the bill and subsequently paralyzing the army, making it ineffective.

The session has been postponed until Thursday, 23 November. We hope that by then a consensus of views will have been achieved by the government. In addition to the fact that division within the government over this subject will have serious repercussions, in accordance with procedure, we might reconsider convening these sessions in the presence of members of the government if the differences of opinion persist, so that the sessions may be useful. The Chamber of Deputies is now called upon to be the final judge in its capacity as the last recourse.

Chamber Speaker al-As'ad said: It has been decided to postpone Tuesday's general debate since it has been learned that the government will be unable to work out a program for the implementation of the Bayt ad-Din conference resolutions by Tuesday. Therefore, the session has been postponed until the prime minister returns from his visit to France. It is expected that by then the cabinet will have drawn up the plan. However, if the cabinet is not able to produce such a plan, this does not mean that the chamber will not meet to discuss the subject. In its capacity as a body that makes recommendations and controls, the chamber will formulate a view and urge the government to carry it out.

Replying to a question, Al-As'ad said that the government is supposed to be united in its views. Differences within the government on this subject should not continue, because this will lead to freezing government action. We have called on the government to overcome these differences.

FOREIGN MINISTER DENIES SARKIS INVITED TO VISIT U.S.

NC141211Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Nov 78 NC

[Text] The Minister of foreign affairs and defense, Fu'ad Butrus, has denied that President Ilyas Sarkis was invited to visit the United States. Minister Butrus was replying to a question on the validity of a report published yesterday by some of the media which said that an invitation was sent to President Sarkis to visit the U.S. capital.

MISSILE RADAR NETWORK INSTALLED IN TA'NAYIL PLAIN

NC171303Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 17 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Reports from Al-Biqa' indicate that big trucks have unloaded military equipment in the Ta'nayil Plain and that a radar network for SAM missiles has been installed in the plain a short distance from Riyaq.

SNIPING CONTINUES IN BEIRUT; MILITARY ACTION IN NORTH

NC161255Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 16 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Sniping continued from Syrian and communist positions against the areas of As-Sayfi, the port, 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and Furn ash-Shubbak. Sniping eased somewhat on the At-Talwitah area at noon today. Movement on the streets near the contact lines still requires caution. No new casualties have been reported since this morning.

In the north, Zghartan armed men from the Giants organization [the military wing of the Franjiyah party] last night blew up Phlangist party headquarters in Kur. These armed men then blew up the house of Sa'id Yusuf Matta, which was the headquarters of the command of the 200-man deterrent forces unit in the town.

16-17 Nov Incidents

NC170658Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 17 Nov 78 NC

[Excerpts] Antitank shells, RPG's and DSHK fire hit the As-Sayfi area last night and there was intensive sniper fire last evening. The areas of Ash-shiyah, 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, at-Talwitah and Furn ash-Shubbak were subjected to sporadic gunfire.

A spokesman for the Lebanese forces has said that the Syrian artillery deployed near the Starco building opened mortar fire on the As-Sayfi and port areas.

Armed elements have opened fire on Dr Usamah Fakhuri's clinic in Corniche al-Mazra'ah, wounding two guards who have been taken to the hospital.

TISHRIN SEES U.S. MIDEAST POLICY NEARING IMPASSE

JN141418Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 Nov 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The United States Is Coming Close to a Difficult Impasse," TISHRIN writes: The U.S. administration considered the Camp David agreements as a political and strategic victory because it succeeded in molding As-Sadat into a pliable tool that will carry out its military, political and even economic plans.

Sinai is to be the center of gravity of the U.S. presence. It will be a base for the 6th Fleet overlooking Aqaba and the Red Sea. In addition, the Camp David agreements will bring the United States closer to the goal President Carter has announced--that is, having Israel, Egypt and the moderate Arab countries join an alliance sponsored by the United States. The basic task of this alliance, in addition to spreading total U.S. hegemony over Arab oil and its supply lines, would be to have the area revolve in its orbit as well as substituting the Arab-Israeli conflict for conflict with the Soviet Union, which is the strategic ally of the Arabs. An indication of this is that President Carter said during the signing of the Camp David agreements that there is a superpower which has ambitions for Arab oil and that this danger must inevitably be confronted.

In conclusion the paper says: The U.S. equation has faltered as a result of three basic factors. These factors are:

1. The convocation of the steadfastness summit in Damascus;

2. The Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement; and

3. The convocation of the Baghdad summit.

The minimum result of these three factors has been the isolation of U.S. policy on the Arab level and consequently insuring strategically balanced conditions.

INFORMATION MINISTER SPEAKS TO IRAQI JOURNALISTS

JN141701Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1638 GMT 14 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 14 Nov--Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad has affirmed that the joint Syrian-Iraqi activity on the international level will have clear and positive effects on the current Arab situation.

In a statement to Iraqi journalists currently visiting Damascus, Mr Iskandar Ahmad said that the Joint National Action Charter between Iraq and Syria will have positive effects in the Arab arena. It will have noticeable [words indistinct] in the Palestinian arena and will contribute to bolstering national Palestinian unity and enhance its efficacy.

Mr Iskandar Ahmad said that any pan-Arab achievement has as its first objective the liberation of the occupied Arab land. He added that the biggest achievement is bringing about unity between Syria and Iraq. The future of the Arab nation and the victory of the just Palestinian cause lie in this unity.

Regarding the effects which the Joint National Action Charter will have in the Lebanese arena, Mr Iskandar Ahmad explained that Lebanon is part of the Arab arena. The charter is a power factor for the Arab nation. It will certainly have its effects in the Lebanese arena and be a factor of power there. It will contribute to bolstering Lebanese legitimacy and enable it to impose its authority over all of Lebanon. It will also make the forces dealing with the Zionist enemy less capable of maneuvering and committing acts of sabotage, since "Israel" was and is the sole beneficiary of the continuation of imperialist and Zionist actions in the Arab area.

Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad stressed that an intrinsic Arab power based on unity between Syria and Iraq will make the Zionist enemy more hesitant about embarking on any stupidity in Lebanon or elsewhere.

Answering a question on the fields of information cooperation and coordination between the two fraternal countries in light of the Joint National Action Charter, Mr Iskandar Ahmad said that these fields will include all information activities without exception, beginning with vocational cooperation between similar organs and extending to a joint central information plan to be implemented by the information organs in both fraternal countries.

IRAQI LABOR DELEGATION IN DAMASCUS TO ATTEND CONFERENCE

JN141646Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Fraternal Arab and friendly foreign labor delegations continue to arrive in Damascus to participate in the 19th conference of the Syrian General Federation of Trade Unions, which opens tomorrow under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad.

Yesterday the delegation of the Iraqi Trade Unions Federation arrived in Damascus. The head of the delegation expressed in a statement to SANA his pleasure at attending the meetings of the 19th conference of the Syrian General Federation of Trade Unions. He said that the National Action Charter signed between the two fraternal countries, Syria and Iraq, was giving the labor movement an impetus to confront all the imperialist and colonialist plots that are being concocted against the Arab nation.

ALGERIA

FLN PAPER: MOROCCO PLANNING AGGRESSION AGAINST NEIGHBORS

LD162246Y Algiers APS in French 1000 GMT 16 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Algiers, 16/11/78, APS--The weekly REVOLUTION AFRICAINE, organ of the FLN, in this week's issue carries a commentary entitled "The Courtier's Assignment," on the Moroccan monarch's visit to the United States, in which it stresses that, "having successfully carried out his mission of acting as intermediary between the Zionists and As-Sadat, 'Mr Good Offices' Hassan II is off to Washington to collect his reward."

This reward "could take the form of various arms, not only so as to attempt to rebalance the current catastrophic situation of his army in the Western Sahara, but also to plan aggression against Algeria," the weekly says, singling out as "symptomatic" the fact that just when "the Mauritanian ally is talking about the possibility of peace in the Western Sahara, Hassan II and his foreign minister are bringing out the battleaxe."

In this connection, REVOLUTION AFRICAINE recalls the aggressive statements made before the preparations for this trip, which is also taking place "just as the finishing touches are being put to the separate Egyptian-Israeli agreement." The scheduled meeting between Hassan II and the heads of the delegations negotiating at Blair House will not fail to make its impression on the Zionist lobby, the weekly says, emphasizing: "At least that is what is hoped in Rabat, where they are counting on the influence of that lobby in getting over Congressional hesitation with regard to supplying Morocco with U.S. arms."

With this in view, the weekly recalls the preliminary condition made by the U.S. Congress before arms could be supplied to Morocco; namely, that steps should be taken to avoid these arms being used outside the kingdom's international borders. "Well," says REVOLUTION AFRICAINE, "Morocco has invaded the Western Sahara and is hatching plans of aggression against neighboring states. Hassan II even allowed himself the pleasure of restoring order in Zaire with borrowed arms." The weekly goes on to stress that despite all this, the monarch has won the sympathy and therefore the backing of the Zionist lobby, which makes no effort to understand why the king of Morocco should be trying to get peace established in the Middle East while waging a war of conquest against the Saharan people, which is identical in every respect to that waged by Israel on the Arab states. "Carter, too, may be seduced by arguments about Morocco's role as an 'anti-communist barrier' which Rabat wants to arrogate to itself in the region." REVOLUTION AFRICAINE says in conclusion: "There is still a reserve [word indistinct] at the service of imperialism. It is to be hoped that Carter still remembers the war in Vietnam, so as to handle Hassan II more carefully."

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI: ATTACK ON LIBYA PLANNED FOR OCTOBER POSTPONED

LD161850Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1820 GMT 16 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 16 November--Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, commander of the Great 1 September Revolution and supreme commander of the armed forces, today disclosed that a sea and air attack was to have taken place last October directed against the armed forces and oil installations of the Jamahiriyah.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said this during his visit this morning to the military academy on the occasion of the entry of a new group of cadets. He added that this attack has probably been postponed until some other time. It was for this reason, he said, that units of our armed forces staged a sea and air maneuver to check such an attack should it take place.

The brother colonel inspected the new building which have been added to the academy.

JALLUD, ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER DISCUSS RELATIONS

LD161554Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Nov 78 LD

[Excerpts] Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti left Tripoli this morning following a 1-day visit to the Jamahiriyah. An official farewell ceremony headed by Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud was held for the Italian prime minister and his accompanying delegation.

Andreotti lauded the bilateral relations linking the Jamahiriyah and Italy. In a statement to journalists at the guest palace prior to his departure from Tripoli he said: This visit has given us the opportunity to insure the continuation of relations and to discuss aspects of cooperation. He declared that agreement has been reached on setting up a joint committee between the two countries to study the necessary bases for enhancing this cooperation. During this visit we also reviewed political issues of interest to both sides.

Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, for his part, lauded Arab Libyan-Italian relations. In a statement to journalists at the guest palace in Tripoli prior to seeing off Italian Prime Minister Guilio Andreotti he said: Despite the brevity of Mr Andreotti's visit to the Jamahiriyah, it is very important and so are the results it has produced. What has been achieved during this short visit is something to be proud of. He explained that this is because the bilateral relations are based on a number of facts: first of all neighborliness and belonging to one area--the Mediterranean area. Also they enjoy close links which play a large part in crystallizing the cooperation between the two countries, and many of the peoples of the Third World desire cooperation with Italy because it does not take part in neocolonialism. The latter is considered a good and important point, which helps the Italian people to cooperate with other peoples.

Staff Major Jallud made clear on what factor Libyan-Italian relations depend. He said: Italy is a technological country, and here in the Jamahiriyah we are striving with all our might to establish a technological state. He stressed the readiness of the Jamahiriyah to cooperate with Italy with an open heart free from any complexes or sensitivity. This was confirmed by the negotiati[illegible]held between the two sides. He said: We want to establish a new era for these [illegible]ons. He stressed that although cooperation has existed between the two countries sinc[illegible]e outbreak of the revolution, this cooperation must be organized and comprehensive. He said: This visit achieves this. He confirmed that the cooperation between the Libyan Arab people and the Italian people--if successful--will be a model for Arab-European cooperation.

Referring to the committee to be established as agreed upon during the visit, he said: It will lay the foundations for the structure of this cooperation. This will be a good opening for exchanging visits among various official and popular delegations.

He added: It is very important for us to be close to Italy because the European Common Market operation can benefit us Arabs, especially following the continuing foundering of the dollar. To find an alternative currency to the foundering dollar in the future would be of benefit to us. We are keeping a watch on this action despite the existence of political and economic problems. If the Arabs can help in this respect it will be in their interest.

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES FROLINAT LEADER, DELEGATION

ID162348Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Nov 78 ID

[Text] Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, today received Goukouni Queddei, leader of FROLINAT, and the delegation accompanying him.

MOROCCO

MAP REPORTS KING HASSAN'S WASHINGTON PRESS CONFERENCE

ID161310Y Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 16 Nov 78 ID

[Text] Washington, Nov 16 (MAP)--"President as-Sadat is still loyal to the Rabat peace summit," King Hassan II of Morocco told Wednesday here at the National Press Club. "The Camp David framework" cannot re-establish peace in the Middle East without the participation of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the maximum of Arab countries, and especially the Palestinians, the king added.

As for the Arab economic boycott of Egypt, Hassan II said: "It is more an intellectual position than an effective one, for the Arab world cannot live in war against Egypt."

When asked to advise the shah of Iran, the king said: "Elections will enable him (the shah) to judge the qualities of his adversaries".

On Moroccan-Algerian relations Hassan compared Algeria to a noisy apartment neighbor, held Algiers responsible for the crisis in north west Africa. The Moroccan military situation in the Sahara "is good", and "never" would a Saharan confederation be allowed, he said. However, "our friends should give us arms for self-defense", the king added.

As for Ceuta and Mellila, still claimed by Morocco, Hassan said he aims to negotiate their return with Spain in the framework of peace, good neighbourhood, friendship and understanding.

AL-MAGHREB Comment

ID161312Y Rabat MAP in English 1218 GMT 16 Nov 78 ID

[Text] Rabat, Nov 16 (MAP)--King Hassan II's visit to Washington was still the main focus Thursday of the leading Moroccan dailies. The semi-official AL-MAGHREB remarked that the "political contexts" had changed considerably since King Hassan II's last visit ten years ago in the United States.

"In 1967, the foreign policy of the United States was dominated by their fierce desire to obtain world leadership despite the Vietnam conflict. Israel (at that time) an unconditional ally, remained safe in its irreverence, and even the White House echoed its arrogant justifications. A lot of water has gone under the bridge, and as King Hassan II remarked to President Carter, "the small nations have placed their force in their faith and in their rights, said AL-MAGHREB.

Citing informed sources, AL-MAGREB said that as a result of King Hassan II's talks with President Jimmy Carter, Washington indicated it might adopt a more favorable Palestinian policy.

Morocco defends the decisions taken at the 1974 Rabat summit, recognizing the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the return of all Arab occupied territories.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO URGES U.S. NOT TO SUPPLY ARMS TO KING HASSAN

LD152040Y Algiers APS in French 1000 GMT 15 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Washington, 15 November, APS--The POLISARIO Front issued a communique in Washington on Monday in which it appeals to the United States to refuse Hassan II the arms he has come to plead for in order to continue the genocide of the Saharan people.

The 24 Cobra helicopters which Morocco has asked for from the United States are to be used against the POLISARIO Front, the communique states. In its appeal the front stresses the direct threat to the drive for peace and pacification begun in the area last July which "any sale of arms, any assistance or encouragement for the policy of aggression in the Western Sahara" would constitute.

To sell arms to Morocco "would be to act against the OAU's ad hoc commissions on the Western Sahara, set up at the Khartoum summit," the POLISARIO Front adds in its appeal to the United States.

SUDANESE-POLISARIO TALKS HELD IN KHARTOUM

JN171034Y Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 17 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 17 November--Sudanese Foreign State Minister Dr Francis Deng last night exchanged views with a visiting POLISARIO delegate on the OAU efforts to settle the Western Sahara question scheduled to be studied by the ad hoc committee entrusted with the topic by the OAU 15th summit.

Dr Deng stressed on the importance (word indistinct) this question within the OAU level to confirm the capability of Africans to settling their inter-disputes without foreign intervention.

TRIBUNAL FOR WESTERN SAHARA TO MEET 30 NOVEMBER

JN161555Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 16 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 16 November--The African tribunal to solve the Western Sahara issue will meet on 30 November instead of 22 November. This change comes at the request of the African leaders who are members of the tribunal.

On another level, a source informed about African issues has stated that the Tanzanian Government has denied news agency reports about its withdrawal from the committee.

The tribunal, which was formed during the African summit conference held in Khartoum, includes Sudan, Tanzania, Nigeria, Guinea, the Ivory Coast and Mali.

POLISARIO: MAURITANIA MUST ACT IF CEASE-FIRE TO LAST

LD150915Y Paris LE MONDE in French 14 Nov 78 p 7 LD

[Daniel Junqua report: "Tanzania's decision to recognize the POLISARIO jeopardizes chances of success for the OAU Committee of 'Wise Men'"]

[Text] Algiers--On Friday, 10 November, the Algerian radio reported that the Dar-es-Salaam government had issued a communique announcing that Tanzania recognizes the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] created by the POLISARIO Front in February 1976. This decision means that 17 states (including 13 African states) have now recognized the SDAR. Equatorial Guinea took the same step at the beginning of the month after a visit by two Saharan leaders.

The Tanzanian initiative is likely to compromise seriously the chances of success for the committee recently formed by the OAU to plan the special summit on Western Sahara which was decided on in principle at the OAU session in Mauritius in 1976. Tanzania has decided to withdraw from this so-called Committee of "Wise Men," which includes Nigeria, Guinea, the Ivory Coast and Mali under Sudan's chairmanship. In drawing up this list after numerous consultations, current OAU President General Numayri took care to exclude countries which had recognized the SDAR, on the grounds that they were too closely involved, and also those such as Zaire which openly supported Morocco.

The Front Rejects OAU Arbitration

Tanzania is unlikely to have taken its decision without consulting the POLISARIO on timing. The front has constantly rejected the role of arbiter which certain countries, especially Morocco and Mauritania, wanted to see the OAU committee play. Indeed, arbitration implies a compromise solution which the Saharans refuse to consider since they are pursuing one objective: pure and simple recognition of their rights over the whole of the Western Sahara.

The Saharans are also showing a growing tendency to openly cast doubt on the real intentions of the Nouakchott leaders. They are visibly disappointed by the failure of the meetings which took place in Paris 9-13 September and in Bamako on 17 October. At the very least they hoped to persuade their Mauritanian interlocutor to withdraw Nouakchott's troops from the part of the Sahara which they occupy. They did not even manage to agree on the question of vocabulary, since the front talked of "negotiations" while the Mauritanians simply said there had been "contacts."

SDAR Information Minister Mohamed Salem Ould Salek told us: "We are still waiting for a concrete gesture from Nouakchott. Vague delarations of intent are not an adequate answer to our 12 July cease-fire decision. The cease-fire cannot last forever if nothing happens." The Saharans have the feeling that the Mauritanian leaders are just playing for time.

We should not be deceived by the calm which has reigned recently over the territory, where operations by underground forces seem to have slowed down. President Boumediene's prolonged visit to Moscow is probably a contributing factor, since the front does not want to take the risk of allowing tension to rise in the region while Algeria is going through a delicate phase.

GOVERNMENT CIRCLES EXPRESS OPTIMISM OVER PEACE TALKS

TA162027Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Circles in the government tonight expressed reserved optimism regarding the continuation of the political negotiations with Egypt. According to their assessment, the Egyptian vice president, Husni Mubarak, will not present extreme proposals in Washington, as was assumed yesterday. Informed government sources told our political correspondent today that in any event they do not believe that the negotiations will be deadlocked.

DAYAN REPORTS TO KNESSET COMMITTEE ON NEGOTIATIONS

TA161737Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 16 Nov 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee hosted Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan for over 3 hours today and heard a political report from him. Mr. Dayan told the committee members about the new Egyptian demands, the autonomy and the problem of the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent in the Knesset Razi Barqa'i reports. [begin recording]

[Barqa'i] The Egyptians demand a time link between the peace treaty with them and the establishment of the autonomy. They demand, the foreign minister says, that a precise date be accepted for the establishment of the self rule, a target date as they call it. We are prepared to agree to a different terminology that will not set a certain date, but will state: as soon as possible. The Egyptians are talking about 9 months, the Americans are talking about a year, but Israel cannot under any circumstances bind itself to a certain date. Recently, Dayan adds, the Egyptians have been raising demands regarding the Gaza Strip. They demand special rights there and want to try an autonomy model there if affairs in Judaea and Samaria do not progress. Among other things, Egypt demands an Egyptian representation in the Gaza Strip, in addition to a local Egyptian police. The foreign minister adds that two additional problems have not been solved: the oil issue and the U.S. aid to Israel. Mr. Dayan's report was accompanied by documents and maps; While presenting them to the committee members he said, and we are quoting here, the treaty with Egypt is almost complete. The text is ready and so are the documents on the military and technical matters. However, as mentioned above, there are new demands now that deviate from what was agreed upon.

Only two Knesset members asked for the floor and expressed their views, particularly on the issue of settlement in the West Bank and the question of ownership of land. The two are Yehuda Ben-Me'ir and Dr Binyamin Halevi. At the end of the meeting we were told by committee members that the report was the most exhaustive they had received to date. The committee will reconvene on Sunday to hear an updated report from Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman who is returning from the United States tomorrow. [end recording]

WEIZMAN SAYS EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL NO OBSTACLE TO PEACE

TA170639Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman will return to Israel today and will participate in the next meeting of the cabinet.

Last night, after his talk with the Egyptian vice president, Weizman said he hoped and believed the new Egyptian proposals would not be an obstacle to signing a peace treaty.

According to our correspondent in Washington, Weizman got the impression that Egypt had not abandoned its intention to continue the peace process, although there were disputes between it and Israel, especially concerning the pace of the preparations for implementing the autonomy plan and the degree of their link to the peace treaty.

The Egyptians want a symbolic presence in the Gaza Strip, saying that in principle they support the simultaneous operation of autonomy in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. However, if the process in the West Bank is stopped it would be desirable to increase the pace in the Gaza Strip. In principle, the Egyptians are prepared for a separate agreement but do not want it to look that way. According to a UN correspondent, Egypt's new proposal is that Israel delay its withdrawal from the Sinai so that it ends when the autonomy in the Gaza Strip has already been established.

Remarks on Arrival in Israel

TA171223Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 Nov 78 TA

[Text] The defense minister thinks that Egypt does not have any territorial aspirations to the Gaza Strip and it is not interested in annexing it just as it had not done in the past. He believes that there is a great deal of exaggeration in the description of the problems in the Washington negotiations. He noted that both parties introduced changes to the draft treaty, and the problems can be solved, in his opinion.

Talking to correspondents after arriving in Israel, 'Ezer Weizman said that he is convinced of Egypt's desire for peace, and this conviction is not based on a superficial impression only. However, the problem lies in the Egyptian conception of the relation between the treaty with us and the autonomy problem in the territories. However, the defense minister emphasized that the Egyptians are demonstrating a desire to continue the discussions and to find solutions for the pending problems. I also believe that it is possible to continue the talks and that it is important to do so, 'Ezer Weizman said. In his opinion, it is unnecessary to change the framework agreements signed in Camp David, and if the two parties adhere to them, it will be possible--after quite a few bends--to reach a solution.

BEN-ELISAR COMMENTS ON PEACE TALKS, U.S. ROLE

TA170734Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Nov 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] The director general of the prime minister's office, Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, said in Paris yesterday that the behavior of the U.S. administration has more than once caused a toughening in the Egyptian position in the negotiations with Israel. Dr Ben-Elisar appeared before the heads of the Bonds enterprise in France. Freddy Etan reports on the main points of his speech from Paris. [begin recording]

[Etan] Dr Ben-Elisar admitted that the talks are in a grave crisis. However, as a person who knows the Egyptians--he conducted the initial negotiations with them in Cairo--he expressed optimism, stating that the Egyptians sincerely want peace. Their recent proposals are intended to gain further concessions from Israel, although they know they will not achieve them. The director general of the prime minister's office refused to set a date for the signing of the agreement but remarked that this may happen within a few weeks.

Ben-Elisar leveled fierce criticism at the United States. He said that the behavior of the U.S. administration has on several occasions led to a toughening in the Egyptian position. We had to resort to a great deal of persuasion to make the Americans and the Egyptians understand that they must not go further with their demands. Dr Ben-Elisar stressed that there was a limit to concessions, and no government in Israel would agree to assume this responsibility.

The head of the committee of general directors elaborated on the Israeli position in the Washington talks and listed the bones of contention. He noted that although Israel believed in a full right sovereignty over Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, it had left the issue open. However, it would firmly object to an immediate handover of sovereignty to the Arabs, since this might lead to Palestinian independence and a PLO-controled state.

Ben-Elisar stressed that peace is very expensive, calling on the diaspora Jews to help in this new and heavy burden. He stated that despite the signing of the treaty with Cairo the IDF would continue to be on the alert and that the defense budget would not be cut, since the Iraqi-Syrian threat would still exist. He remarked that the Israeli Government would invest $4 billion in the transfer of military bases and installations from the Sinai to the Negev. On this matter he expressed anxiety that the United States would not aid us.

His realistic speech encouraged the bonds contributors. They have tripled their contributions of last year.

Finally I should note that there are persistent rumors of a meeting held in the Marseilles airport between Ben-Elisar and Husni Mubarak. Ben-Elisar denied that a meeting had taken place. We have found out that their two planes landed in Marseilles at the same time because of a technical failure. [end recording]

ALINEMENT SUBMITTING NO-CONFIDENCE PROPOSAL ON ECONOMICS

TA161511Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Nov 78 TA

[Text] The Alinement's Knesset faction is submitting a no-confidence proposal in the government concerning the economic situation. The proposal, submitted by MK Gad Ya'acobi, states that inflation that has gone over 50 percent since the economic revolution indicates the government's total loss of control and influence on the economic processes.

On the negotiations with Egypt, the reactions team of the cabinet [as heard] says that a disturbing chaos prevails in the talks, and the negotiators have lost all proportions and guidelines and do not know where they are heading.

SHAY Joins Proposal

TA162008Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Nov 78 TA

[Text] The Knesset Alinement faction and SHAY faction will propose a no-confidence vote in the government. They claim the government is unable to handle economic problems, as the rise of the index over the last month proves. It is the first time the SHAY faction has proposed to express no confidence in the government.

CABINET MINISTERS CLAIM SHARON WANTS TO RESIGN

TA161953Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Our political correspondent Elimelekh Ram reports that the opinion prevailing among cabinet ministers is that Minister Ari'el Sharon is planning to end his association with the cabinet.

This is related to the expected opinion of state comptroller, Dr Yizhaq Neventzal, regarding Sharon's ownership of a farm in southern Israel. Ministers say that Ari'el Sharon would prefer leaving the government to giving up his farm. However, he wants to give the impression that his withdrawal is for ideological reasons. Apparently in reaction, Minister Sharon told our correspondent that he does not intend to withdraw from the government. At the moment, he says, I am facing important tasks and occupations in the government, and I am not considering a withdrawal.

The cabinet ministers today refused to react to the shaky relations among the cabinet members yesterday in the harsh verbal exchanges concerning the establishment of the urban center in the Gaza Strip. Minister Gid'on Pat, who argued with Mr Sharon about this yesterday, told our correspondent that what he has to say about the agriculture minister he will say in the cabinet meeting and that he will raise this subject in a closed forum of the Likud movement.

LINKAGE IMPLICATIONS PREVENT CABINET APPROVAL OF TREATY

TA170803Y Jerusalem POST in English 17 Nov 78 pp 1, 3 TA

[By David Landau]

[Text] The three words "on this basis," which have "linkage" implications, have deterred the cabinet for the past fortnight from endorsing the proposed preamble to the draft treaty with Egypt. During this time, the Egyptians have significantly toughened their "linkage" demands, insisting that, in addition to the preamble, a letter accompanying the treaty spell out a specific timetable for the implementation of West Bank-Gaza Strip autonomy. But officials here believe this hardening was due to Cairo's anxiety over the Baghdad summit--particularly over Saudi disapprobation of Egypt expressed there--rather than a reaction to the Israeli Cabinet's position.

At the same time, there is a distinctly detectable feeling of irritation, even of bitterness, among some of the Israeli negotiating team toward the cabinet back home. The contention can be heard from some of the negotiators that the cabinet has been unduly--and unwisely--obdurate in rejecting compromises worked out between all three delegations in Washington.

The same criticism has been made of the negative, almost panicky, reaction here in Jerusalem to Egypt's public focus this week on the Gaza Strip. While the true import of this Egyptian shift was not yet known here yesterday, and officials were awaiting word of the Carter-Mubarak meeting at the White House, some of them ventured that the stress on Gaza might yet prove beneficial for the negotiations--if it means a lessening of Egypt's pressure regarding the West Bank.

While ministers and their aides here have spoken, in distraught tones, of Egypt's apparent desire "to re-annex Gaza," these more optimistic officials hope and believe that Egypt seeks only to implement the autonomy as soon as possible in the Gaza Strip, having concluded that it will be difficult to implement, at least for the present, on the West Bank.

The offending words "on this basis" appear in a clause of the preamble that was adopted from the Camp David "Framework for Peace." The cabinet majority objects to it on the grounds that it could be construed as meaning that subsequent treaties between Israel and its other neighbours would be concluded on the basis of the present treaty.

(The same words, "on this basis," as they appear in the Camp David "framework," clearly refer to the framework rather than to the Israel-Egypt treaty).

The delegation in Washington believed the words "on this basis" as they appear in the draft preamble after several re-formulations, do not necessarily imply that subsequent treaties with other states, whom the preamble invites to conclude peace with Israel too, will follow the total-withdrawal pattern of the Israel-Egypt treaty.

There have been other instances, in the course of there negotiations, when the cabinet turned down recommendations made by the delegation. An outline of the talks so far was made available to the Jerusalem POST by an informed source:

Round one--Israel and Egypt both arrived in Washington with draft peace treaties, but the U.S. quickly stepped in with a first compromise draft of its own, drawing on elements from each of the protagonists' papers, and introducing elements of its own. The "linkage" issue figured prominently right from the start, with the U.S., in this initial draft, suggesting linkage language in the preamble and in two places in the body of the treaty.

This language largely comprised selected quotations from the Camp David "Framework for Peace in the Middle East."

The Israeli team, according to the informed source, immediately rejected any linkage language in the body of the treaty.

A second U.S. draft, taking account of this Israeli objection, omitted the linkage from the body of the text, but added the "on this basis" passage to the preamble, and also proposed an accompanying letter, to be signed jointly by Begin and As-Sadat, or else by Carter, which would express the linkage that had been removed from the treaty.

The Israelis did not agree to all of this. They suggested additional quotations from the Camp David "framework" (such as that relating to the stationing of the IDF on the West Bank) to be included in the preamble--but Egypt balked. Israel did, however, agree that the letter could stipulate that talks on the West Bank-Gaza autonomy would begin in one month.

A third draft was considered marginally better by the Israeli legal sides. Without, however, acquiescing in it, the Israelis suggested that the talks move on to other issues. Much progress was made in the next few days on the various documents, until a limited number of issues were isolated for ruling by the cabinet ("ad referendum"). These included the linkage question; the formulation of a clause on future sovereignty over the Gaza Strip; and the "priority of obligations" provision.

On this last point, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan dispatched the two lawyers, Aharon Barak and Me'ir Rosenne, to Yale University to seek academic support for Israel's contention that Egypt must expressly undertake that the peace treaty cancels out its obligations under previous, anti-Israel pacts that it had signed in the past.

A number of top-flight international lawyers backed Israel, and the U.S. administration urged Egypt to soften its position on this issue.

At this stage, Dayan and Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman returned to Jerusalem to seek cabinet approval for the drafts, and decisions on the unresolved issues. After lengthy debates, the cabinet gave its "approval in principle"--but issued a string of "instructions" to the delegation in which, in effect, it demanded a tough stand on the linkage language, on the Gaza sovereignty clause, and on the "priority of obligation" provision.

In addition, the cabinet voiced concern over the lack of progress on Israel's claim for special preferred rights to the Sinai oil after the return of the fields to Egypt, and also over the U.S.'s reluctance to commit itself to ensure that the alternative airfields in the Negev will be ready by the time Israel has to evacuate the Sinai airfields. (Israel, according to the informed source, is willing for the U.S. to build the airfields itself.")

Round two--At the start of this round, the Egyptian demand for a "revision clause" was introduced. It pertained only to the military aspects of the treaty, and specified that the review would be by mutual consent. The delegation was apparently surprised at the violently negative reaction this idea drew from government circles here.

A new U.S. draft showed distinct improvement on the "priority of obligation" issue, but there was no shift on the linkage--even after Premier Begin met with Secretary Vance in New York in November. Egypt, moreover, introduced a new demand--for the Sinai nine-month interim pullback to be parcelled in advance into specific and detailed stages.

Weizman flew to Jerusalem (while Begin continued to Canada) to persuade the cabinet that this demand was acceptable--but he failed. Most ministers felt Israel should not commit itself to such tight arrangements in the Sinai withdrawal which, for objective reasons, might not be precisely realizable months later.

While Weizman was in Jerusalem, Egypt's Butrus Ghali was in Cairo--and he returned to Washington with "new instructions" from President as-Sadat. One of these was to omit once again the "priority of obligations" clause from the draft--and at this the Americans bridled strongly. Another was to insert a detailed timetable into the accompanying letter, providing for the autonomy elections within six months and the functioning of the autonomous council within nine.

At a three-and-a-half hour meeting with Ghali, Dayan told him that this was entirely unacceptable to Israel. Dayan and Weizman flew to Toronto to brief Begin, and he, too, flatly rejected the timetable idea.

The U.S. side, perceiving that a deadlock threatened, intervened, and, in a late night session last Saturday at the State Department, Vance sought to hammer out with Dayan a less offensive version of the autonomy timetable. The secretary suggested that the commitment be to hold the elections by December 1979 (the "target date")--by which time the "normalization" of relations between Israel and Egypt should be in force. Dayan was non-commital. Vance sought to sweeten the pill by pledging that the U.S. would influence Egypt to be forthcoming in the oil talks.

Throughout the second round, the Israeli negotiators had the feeling that the Egyptians were being deliberately tougher than before. The news of the cabinet's refusal to endorse the timetable procedure in the Sinai, particularly, seemed to anger them. They explained that the Egyptian people needed to be shown steady and tangible progress, and for this reason they demanded a withdrawal timetable.

By early this week, and with the draft treaty, the military annexe and the political annexe (specifying the "normalization" provisions) wrapped up save for the still-unresolved issues, Dayan suggested that it was time for another report to the cabinet.

As he left Washington, Butrus Ghali voiced the first hint of Cairo's new proposals regarding the Gaza Strip, proposals which were being clarified between President Carter and Vice President Husni Mubarak yesterday and which may mean an entirely novel twist in the negotiations.

U.S. LIKELY TO REACT FAVORABLY TO EHRLICH AID REQUEST

TA161820Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich will meet with U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale in about 2 hours. He will ask for economic aid amounting to $3.3 billion of which $1 billion is to be a grant and the rest an easy-term loan. Israeli sources in Washington believe that a change is expected in the U.S. position, and it may favorably discuss the aid request. The sources base this, among other things, on the establishment of the joint committee consisting of the State Department and Pentagon representatives on the one hand and the representatives of the Israeli Defense and Finance ministries. This committee will deal with Israeli aid requests.

ECONOMIC AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN U.S., ISRAEL

TA162044Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 16 Nov 78 TA

[Text] In economic discussions, the U.S. administration agreed to discuss the possibility of increasing its purchases in Israel, due to Israel's large purchases from the U.S. military industry. This was stated this evening by the director general of the Industry, Trade and Tourism Ministry, 'Amos Mar-Hayyim, on his return from Washington. Talks about the U.S. purchases will open at the beginning of next month. The U.S. administration has already promised to lift some of the limitations currently imposed on the Israeli exports. Today Israel's export to the United States are valued at $700 million and its imports at $1.1 billion.

ISRAELI SOURCES REAFFIRM TIES WITH LEBANESE CHRISTIANS

TA162035Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Reliable Israeli elements said today that the tie between the Christians in Lebanon and Israel has not been weakened and has not decreased. The elements told our military correspondent that at this stage there is no sign indicating such a weakening or a severance of the ties between the Christians in Beirut and the Christians in the south. The commander of the Christian militias in southern Lebanon told our correspondent this evening, in a telephone call from Metulla, that today he talked with the northern Christians' command and received a report on the incidents in Beirut.

POLL INDICATES RISE IN POPULARITY OF BEGIN, DAYAN

TA160747Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 16 Nov 78 p 3 TA

[Text] The popularity of Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan has risen in the last month and Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman continues to be the most popular minister. These are the findings of the national public opinion poll carried out by the Pori Institute at the request of HA'AREZ.

The number of those who are satisfied with Menahem Begin as prime minister has risen by 8.2 percent, from 60.0 percent in September to 68.2 percent now. At the same time, it should be pointed out that the prime minister's popularity has not returned to its 1977 level, when 78 percent were satisfied with him as prime minister.

The rate of those satisfied with Moshe Dayan as foreign minister has risen by 5.6 percent, from 54.2 percent in September to 59.8 percent now. This is the highest popularity Moshe Dayan has ever enjoyed since assuming office as foreign minister in the Likud cabinet.

The number of those satisfied with 'Ezer Weizman as defense minister is now 73.8 percent, compared with 74.2 percent in September, and he continues to be the most popular minister.

The number of those satisfied with Simha Ehrlich as finance minister has decreased by 3.3 percent, from 22.6 percent in September to 19.3 percent now. It seems that the new price hikes have harmed the finance minister's popularity, and it is now the lowest since he took office.

The number of those satisfied with Yosef Burg as interior minister has not changed. Some 50.8 percent were satisfied with him in September and 50.2 percent are satisfied with him now.

The poll covered a representative cross-section of the entire Jewish population, comprising 1,210 men and women who were interviewed individually in their homes all over the country.

POLL ON ISRAELI ATTITUDES ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE

TA1141334Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 14 Nov 78 p 3 TA

[Text] Most of the public in Israel is of the opinion that it is impossible to arrive at a full and final peace agreement without solving the Palestinian problem--that is the conclusion of the national public opinion poll by the Pori Institute held at the request of HA'AREZ.

Out of all those asked, 62.6 percent said that it was impossible to arrive at peace without solving the Palestinian problem, as opposed to 22.4 percent, who said that it was possible to achieve peace without solving it.

Another 1.9 percent said that "maybe" it was possible to arrive at peace without solving the Palestinian problem and 13.1 percent had no opinion on the issue.

A close study of the positions shows that there has been almost no change in public opinion on that issue since 1974. To the question of "whether or not it is possible to reach a final and full peace without solving the Palestinian problem" the Pori poll received the following answers:

	Impossible	Possible
March 1974	60.0	26.0
December 1977	59.4	24.5
September 1978	65.9	21.4
October 1978	62.6	22.4

However, the poll shows that these positions do not mean that the Israeli public agrees with the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Of the entire public, 70.2 percent is opposed to the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, even in return for a final and full peace. Only 17.1 percent of the general public agrees with the establishment of a Palestinian state in the territories and another 2.3 percent said that they would "perhaps" agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state on condition that the PLO would not participate in it and on condition that Israel would be given suitable security guarantees.

Of all those asked, 10.4 percent had no views on the issue of the establishment of a Palestinian state. The poll covered a representative sample of 1,210 men and women who were given personal interviews in their homes throughout the country. The poll did not include the minority population.

KHOMEYNI APPEALS TO OIL WORKERS TO CONTINUE STRIKE

TA151756Y Paris AFP in English 1738 GMT 15 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Paris, Nov 15 (AFP)--Iranian Shi'ite Moslem leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni appealed here today to Iranian oil industry workers to continue their strike.

His statement coincided with conflicting reports from Iran about whether the oil workers had ended their two-week-old strike or not.

The exiled opposition leader threatened to take steps to "reserve the oil wells for future generations" if the United States used force "to make oil workers resume their work."

Ayatollah Khomeyni called on the Iranian people to support the strikers financially and "encourage them in their just struggle" against the shah of Iran and "his family of felons."

TEHRAN REPORTS BEHRGAN OILFIELD WORKERS END STRIKE

LD171115Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Nov 78 LD

[Text] The 9-day strike by workers in the Behrgan oilfield in the Persian Gulf has ended and the workers in this field as well as workers of the Iranian-Italian Oil Company, a subsidiary of the National Iranian Oil Company, have returned to work.

In an interview with the PARS NEWS AGENCY, the Behrgan oilfield's public relations head announced: Following the return to work by 400 people, the oil workers in this field are back at work. The first 250,000-ton oil tanker yesterday docked in the Persian Gulf and was loaded. The center of the Behrgan oilfield in the Persian Gulf is 20 km from Bandar-e Deylam and its center is the city of Khorramshahr.

A report from Kharg says that the strike by workers of the Pan-American Oil Company in Kharg has ended and that this group has returned to work.

SHAH RECEIVES EIGHT NEW CABINET MEMBERS

LD161346Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 16 Nov 78 LD

[Text] The shahanshah aryamehr received Gen Gholamreza Azhari, the prime minister, at Niavaran Palace this afternoon. During the audience the prime minister introduced to the monarch the following eight new cabinet ministers:

Mohsen Foroughi, minister of culture and art; Mohammad Hasan Morshed, minister of health and welfare; Mostafa Paydar, minister of state for executive affairs; 'Ezzatollah Homayunfar, minister of state for social and political affairs; Ahmad Naderi, minister of state for parliamentary affairs; Manuchehr Behruz, minister of housing and urban development; Shamsoddin Mofidi, minister of science and higher education; and Mohsen Shari'atmadar, minister of state and supervisor of the Awqaf organization.

TEHRAN REPORTS SHAH'S MESSAGE ON ARMY DAY

LD161630Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 16 Nov 78 LD

[Text] On the occasion of the Imperial Iranian Army Day, the shah issued a decree in which he expressed his happiness to all officers, NCO's, soldiers and the army staff. In this respect the shah said: The imperial army is progressing in a decisive and rapid manner, reaching the standards of the most advanced armies of the world.

The shah said: Our officers, NCO's and soldiers have have demonstrated their love for the glory and pride of the country and the imperial army, and are prepared for any sacrifice for the national sanctities and ancient traditions of monarchy.

The deputy chief of the supreme commander's staff, referring to the imperial army day, said: The imperial army will spare no sacrifice in ending anarchy and restoring stability and peace and neutralizing separatism. He added: Parallel with the country's all-embracing progress, the imperial army has become a strong and powerful army in this part of the world.

TEHRAN PROSECUTOR PUBLISHES INFORMATION ON MISAPPROPRIATION

LD161812Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Nov 78 LD

[Text] The Tehran public prosecutor today published some new information about the individuals who are charged with misappropriation. He warned Mansur Yasemi, the former Majlis deputy whose immunity was lifted for alleged misappropriation, to report to the public prosecutor's office in Tehran.

BRIEFS

DEPARTING ALGERIAN ENVOY--Tehran, 14 Nov, PANA--Amir Shilati, parliamentary undersecretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, held a reception today in honour of Algerian Ambassador at the Imperial Court Hafid Keramane, whose mission in Iran has come to an end. Shilati mentioned his imperial majesty the shahanshah aryamehr's [word indistinct] to Algeria and President Houari Boumediene's efforts to end the strained relations between Iran and Iraq in the past. He also referred to bilateral political relations and cultural, commercial and economic cooperation. In reply, Keramane said that relations between Iran and Algeria were based on common religious, cultural and artistic interests. A number of ambassadors to the imperial court, high-ranking officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives of the mass media were present at the reception. [Text] [Tehran PARS in English 0720 GMT 15 Nov 78 LD]

BANGLADESH

PRC'S LI CHIANG FETED AT DACCA RECEPTION

BK1611141Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 16 Nov 78 BK

[Text] The visiting Chinese foreign trade minister, Mr Li Chiang, has said his country firmly supports the government and people of Bangladesh in their just struggle to safeguard national independence and state sovereignty. He was speaking at a reception in honor of his delegation by the Bangladesh-China friendship society in Dacca yesterday. He said the Chinese Government and people attach great importance to friendship with Bangladesh. He said bilateral cooperation has also been broadened and deepened following the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Referring to the contacts between the two countries for over 1,000 years, Mr Li Chiang said there are many things to learn from each other and both are developing countries belonging to the Third World. He termed the people of Bangladesh as industrious and courageous and said in recent years the Bangladesh Government and people, under the guidance of President Zia, have made strenuous efforts and achieved remarkable success in developing the national economy.

About his talks with Bangladesh leaders, he said he had a very friendly and cordial conversation with President Ziaur Rhaman and Commerce Minister Mr Saifur Rahman.

The land administration and land reforms minister, Mirza Golam Hafiz, who is also the president of the society, said on the occasion that our aims and efforts are for the promotion of friendly relations between Bangladesh and China. He said the people of Bangladesh have unbounded admiration for China and its people and for the rapid socioeconomic development taking place in that country. Mirza Golam Hafiz said China's role in the struggle by the Third World countries for the establishment of a new world economic order will be long remembered in history.

The Chinese guests were presented with Dacca moslems as token gifts on behalf of the society.

INDIA

VAJPAYEE REFUTES GANDHI STATEMENT ON SOVIET TREATY

BK1615552Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Nov 78 BK

[Text] External Affiars Minister Vajpayee has denied Mrs Gandhi's reported statement in London that he had demanded scrapping of the India-Soviet treaty of peace and friendship concluded in 1971.

In a statement in New Delhi, Mr Vajpayee described the charge as a vicious lie and challenged Mrs Gandhi to furnish evidence to support her statement.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON VISIT OF INDONESIA'S MOCHTAR

BK1615111Y Delhi ISI in English 1431 GMT 16 Nov 78 BK

[Joint communique issued in Delhi 16 November following Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja's 14-16 November visit]

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the minister of external affairs of India, His Excellency Dr Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, the foreign minister of the Republic of Indonesia, visited India from 14 to 16 November 1978 for the annual meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries.

During his stay in Delhi the Indonesian foreign minister called on the president of India and Minister of Commerce Mohan Dharia. The foreign minister of Indonesia and his delegation also visited Agra.

In the talks the Indonesian foreign minister was assisted by His Excellency Vice Admiral Sjamsul Bachri, ambassador of Indonesia to India, and other senior officials. The minister of external affairs of India was assisted by Jagat Mehta, foreign secretary, and other senior officials of the Government of India. The talks were held in the traditional atmosphere of friendship, cordiality and understanding which characterise relations between the two countries and brought out a general similarity of views and perceptions in their foreign policies and in their attitude on important international questions.

The two foreign ministers recalled with pleasure the various opportunities they had had for exchange of views on bilateral, regional and international matters since they took office and felt that they had contributed considerably to mutual understanding.

The two foreign ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the policy of nonalignment and emphasized the determination of their governments to work together for the preservation of the nonaligned movement as an independent global factor for the strengthening of solidarity, unity of action and cooperation of the nonaligned countries and for the success of the ensuing nonaligned summit in the light of the declaration adopted at the Belgrade meeting of the foreign ministers of the nonaligned countries in August 1978. They were confident that the nonaligned movement can continue to make a meaningful contribution towards the consolidation of world peace, to the elimination of last vestiges of colonialism and racism and to the construction of the new international economic order as well as to mankind's advance towards general and complete disarmament.

The two foreign ministers agreed on the continuing importance and relevance of the United Nations Organization as a forum for reaching international consensus on important issues confronting mankind today and reiterated their support and adherence to the purpose and principles of the UN Charter.

The two foreign ministers exchanged views on the international economic situation. They noted with concern the aggravation of unfavourable trends in the world economy, compounded by a definite lack of progress in the negotiations on major issues relating to structural changes in the international economic order. The foreign ministers reiterated their unrelenting commitment to the implementation of the new international economic order and reaffirmed their agreement on pursuing this objective through constructive dialogue and negotiations in the appropriate fora of the UN system.

The two foreign ministers took note of the recent developments in the Middle East and of the efforts of the states concerned towards lasting peace in the region. They felt that a just and durable solution could only be achieved in accordance with the UN resolutions through complete withdrawal by Israel from all occupied Arab territories, recognition of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people [and] of the right of all states in the region to live in peace within recognised borders. The two foreign ministers called upon the international community to implement fully the UN resolutions concerning the restoration of peace and stability to the Middle East.

The two foreign ministers expressed their deep concern at the lack of progress towards majority rule in Zimbabwe and towards complete and early independence in Namibia which could have disastrous consequences. They reiterated their firm support to the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia in their struggle for national independence and to the people of South Africa in their fight against racism and apartheid.

The two foreign ministers noted with regret that no significant progress had been made in the implementation of the UN declaration on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and called on all great powers and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean to extend their full support and cooperation to the littoral and hinterland states in implementing the UN resolutions. They expressed the hope that the talks between the United States and the USSR on mutual arms limitations would be resumed and lead to positive results which would pave the way towards progressive reduction and final elimination of all manifestations of foreign military presence from the Indian Ocean.

The foreign minister of Indonesia informed the minister of external affairs of India of the current situation in Southeast Asia, with particular reference to the progress made by the ASEAN and also the steps taken by the states in the region towards normalisation of relations among them. He also informed the external affairs minister of India of the decision by the ASEAN foreign ministers authorising the secretary general of the ASEAN Secretariat to hold exploratory talks with the Government of India on the modalities for a relationship of cooperation between the ASEAN and India.

The minister of external affairs of India welcomed ASEAN's progress and its continuing commitment to the establishment of a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in Southeast Asia and expressed the confidence that cooperation between India and ASEAN will add a new dimension to India's relationship with the member states.

The two foreign ministers expressed the hope that the unfortunate conflict between Vietnam and Kampuchea would be resolved peacefully through bilateral negotiations without foreign interference so that their peoples could undertake more vigorously the task of national reconstruction.

The minister of external affairs of India informed the foreign minister of Indonesia of the steps taken by his government to foster good neighbourly relations with other states in South Asia. The foreign minister of Indonesia welcomed the progress towards peace, stability and friendly cooperation in the region and expressed the view that the continuously improving relations would accelerate the social and economic development of the region as a whole.

The two foreign ministers noted with satisfaction the development of bilateral relations since the last talks, particularly in the field of economic and technological cooperation. Both felt that such cooperation could be deepened and broadened in various directions, in particular in the fields of agriculture, forestry and science and technology. They took note of the progress made in the continuing negotiations between the authorities concerned in the two countries for an agreement on cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of atomic energy. They agreed that their talks had contributed to a deeper understanding and better appreciation of each other's interests and had laid the foundation for closer cooperation between them bilaterally as well as in international forums.

The foreign minister of Indonesia expressed his deep appreciation of the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him and to the members of his delegation during his visit to India. He extended an invitation to the minister of external affairs of India to visit Indonesia for the next round of talks. The invitation was gratefully accepted.

AFP: INDIA'S TIBETAN REFUGEES DEMAND RETURN VISIT

BK161528Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1237 GMT 16 Nov 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 16 (AFP)--Tibetan refugees in India want China to allow them to visit their relatives in their native land.

The Dalai Lama's representative, Kalon Rincher T. Sadutshang, voiced this demand in a statement today following the Chinese Government's announcement on the release of "important prisoners" in Tibet and its call to exiles to return home. He noted that the announcement said that those released would be permitted to visit their relatives living outside Tibet and urged that Tibetans in exile be given the opportunity to visit their relatives in Tibet.

DESAI DEFENDS JANATA PARTY LEADERSHIP IN GOVERNMENT

OW162319Y Hong Kong AFP in English 2049 GMT 16 Nov 78 OW

[Text] New Delhi, 16 Nov (AFP)--Prime Minister Morarji Desai today warned his critics in the ruling Janata Party that attempts to "demolish me do not demolish the party."

Mr Desai, who was addressing Janata Party leaders on the penultimate day of the ruling party's four-day conference at Ujjain, in central Indian Madhya Pradesh, defended the performance of his 20-month-old government. Apparently replying to Party President Chandra Shekar's criticism that the government had failed to fulfill Janata's pledges to the people, Mr Desai said only a magician could have completed the party programme so soon. Mr Desai even offered to step down if that helped the party. "I would welcome it."

In his speech on the opening day of the conference, Mr Shekhar said it was not enough to say that the party had been able to re-establish parliamentary democracy and give new life to democratic values. The people expected much more. They were looking forward to an era in which their basic needs were fulfilled.

Mr Desai urged "friends" in the party to avoid in-fighting. If they did so "all of us will lose respectability," he added.

Mr Desai, who faced criticism from various groups, especially from former Interior Minister Charan Singh and his supporters in the ruling party, covered a wide range of subjects including functioning of Janata and government, and listed its achievements and failures. He stressed the need for the government and the party to work together but said he was not in favour of a party remaining in government for many years.

On foreign affairs, the prime minister said relations with neighbouring countries, including Pakistan, were good. The prestige of the Janata Government had gone up in "democratic countries," he said.

About the recent Chikmagalure by-election in south India in which the Janata Party candidate was defeated by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Mr Desai admitted the party organization in the south was weak, but said the shortcomings were to be eliminated.

He forecast a bright future for the Janata Party. "If this party has no future may God help the country," he added.

PAKISTAN

PROSECUTION CONCLUDES ARGUMENTS IN BHUTTO CASE

BK1617417Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 16 Nov 78 BK

[Text] The prosecution concluded arguments in the Mohammad Ahmed Khan murder case before the Supreme Court today. Summing up the arguments, the prosecution counsel, Mr Ijaz Hussain Batalavi, prayed that the conviction in this case, being in accordance with the law, may be maintained and the appeal may be dismissed. He submitted that the motive in this case rested with the appellant [Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto] as no other accused had any motive of his own. He argued that the motive is of special significance in cases of conspiracy and has to be taken into consideration with other evidence.

He said the conspiracy to eliminate Mr Ahmed Reza Kasuri between the appellant and Masud Mahmud [former director of the defunct Federal Security Force] and through him [Masud] with others is proved by collaborative evidence on record. He said as submitted by him during the course of his arguments, the circumstantial evidence in the case pointed only in one direction, and that was the guilt of the appellant. The most important feature of the case is what happened during the period between 11 November 1974 and 1 October 1975 when the case was filed untraced. During this period, the appellant's functionaries were actively engaged in controlling the investigation of the case.

The FSF [Federal Security Force] as the perpetrator of the crime on the one hand and the so-called investigation agency on the other had only one common overlord, and that was the appellant.

Mr Ijaz Hussain Batalvi submitted that the allegations of bias against the trial court were completely unfounded, politically motivated and planned before the trial commenced. He said the judgment of the trial court was perfectly proper and in fact the only judgment on the basis of evidence in the case that could have been delivered.

In spite of every effort made to make it impossible to conduct the proceedings, the trial court showed patience and accommodation. The prosecution counsel prayed to the court to reaffirm the principle of law that all are equal before the law irrespective of their status in life.

Earlier, Mr Ijaz Hussain Batalvi argued that the appellant had failed to make up a case for recording of additional evidence.

Before the court rose to assemble on Saturday, the advccate on record, Mr. M.A. Rahman, submitted that the government is of the view that there was no need whatsoever to allow Mr Yahya Bakhtiar or any of his colleagues to meet Begum Nusrat Bhutto. He said, as a matter of grace, the government had allowed Mr Yahya Bakhtiar to meet her yesterday but could not agree to anymore meetings. He said the application has been made to the court for political reasons. Even the copies of the application had been endorsed to international bodies so as to prejudice the mind of the outside world against the impartiality of the court.

The advocate on record also submitted before the court the report of the deputy director of the FIA [Federal Investigation Agency] Lahore, in compliance with the order of the court of 8 October.

PAEC OFFICIAL SPEAKS ON PROGRESS OF NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM

BK170541Y Karachi Overseas Service in Bengali 0115 GMT 17 Nov 78 BK

[Text] The chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission [PAEC], Mr Munir Ahmad, has said that progress was being made in implementing Pakistan's overall atomic energy projects and work on 600 megawatt atomic energy project at Ohashima will start shortly. He said this while addressing the annual general session of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. Mr Ahmad said that Pakistani engineers have succeeded in indigenously producing spare parts and supplying other equipment for the Karachi atomic energy center. He also mentioned the progress achieved at the PAEC medical center in developing high-quality seeds and in diagnosis and other medical fields through the use of nuclear technology. On the matter of checking inflation, he said it can only be done on the firm basis of mutual interest and interdependence.

SRI LANKA

JAYEWARDENE INITIATES MOVES TO INSURE OIL SUPPLY

BK161217Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Nov 78 BK

[Text] President Jayewardene has personally initiated diplomatic moves to obtain supplies of oil in the wake of reports of a possible delay. According to official sources, he has appealed to certain suppliers to help Sri Lanka by expediting their shipments.

Exports from Iran, which supplies 40 percent of our requirements, have come to a standstill, thus causing a heavy demand for crude oil from Saudi Arabia. Sixty percent of Sri Lanka's crude oil comes from Saudi Arabia. Already two ships due to load crude oil are held up in Saudi Arabia.

FINANCE MINISTER PRESENTS BUDGET TO PARLIAMENT

BK161223Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Nov 78 BK

[Text] The minister of finance, Mr Ronnie de Mel, presented the second budget of the UNP [United National Party] government and the first under the new constitution in parliament yesterday, announced a pay increase for public servants and exemption from income-tax for these categories, and an overhauling of the tax structure with a view to expediting and encouraging development and increasing production. The creation of more employment avenues through increased incentives and an expansion in house construction were also announced. Wages of all public servants will be increased by 10 percent with a minimum of 50 rupees. The increase will also apply to local government servants and pensioners. There will also be an increase in the rates of subsistence and travelling. The minister announced that the wages of public servants will be free from income tax completely. He said that this is the biggest concession offered to public servants since 1947 and was intended to produce an efficient and contented public service. These increases will also apply to the private sector.

Earlier, in a wide-ranging review of the position of the economy and the development initiatives by the government, the minister of finance said that the first budget was presented in an atmosphere of darkness, despondency and despair, and now the people are moving forward with renewed life and vigor to reach their promised land of a just and free society. He cautioned, however, that the country had still a long way to go and many difficulties to surmount.